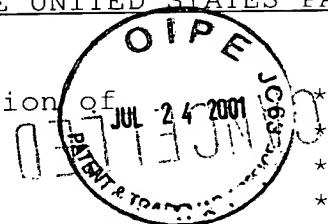


#316
J. Morris
9-28-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

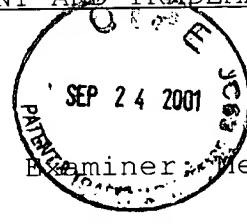
In re application of
BABA ET AL



Serial No.: 09/673,937

Filed: October 24, 2000

Title: METHOD OF STABILIZING ENZYME AND ENZYME COMPOSITION



RECEIVED

Sep 26 2001

Examiner: Meller, M. TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Group Art Unit 1651

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office action dated May 24, 2001, please amend as follows:

In the Claims

Cancel all claims presently on file and substitute the following new claims:

10. (New) A method for stabilizing an aspartate aminotransferase in a medium selected from the group consisting of a serum and a buffer, comprising adding to said medium at least one stabilizer selected from the group consisting of valine in an amount of from about 0.5-100 mmol./l and proline in an amount of from about 0.5-500 mmol./l.

11. (New) The method of stabilizing the enzyme according to Claim 10, wherein said serum or buffer contains a soluble protein.